LEXINGTON—Rides for passengers who use the Dawson County Transit bus will continue as usual, at least through the end of the calendar year.

During their regular bimonthly meeting on July 13, commissioners reappointed Barb Hollenbeck as director of the transit system through Dec. 31.

Over the past six months, county board members have considered changes to the bus system, including removing it from county responsibility, said clerk Karla Zlatkovsky.

Commissioners have researched transit systems in other Nebraska counties, most of which are run by cities not counties.

But for now, commissioners have decided to continue business as usual.

“I think they’re still considering making some changes,” Zlatkovsky said. “It would take at least until the end of the year to accomplish that anyway so at least the people who ride the bus aren’t left without service.”

Also during Friday’s meeting, Parent-Child Center director Jennifer Soncksen presented an agency review and made a budget request of $15,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

The number of clients served by the center jumped dramatically from 2010 to 2011 but has remained steady through 2012, Soncksen told commissioners.

The $15,000 for operating expenses is the same amount Soncksen has requested for the past several years, Zlatkovsky said. Commissioners contributed $9,000 last year.

This budget year, the Parent-Child Center will suffer from a number of federal budget cuts, Soncksen told the board, making the $15,000 more of a necessity.

Zlatkovsky said commissioners will consider the request with all other departments before passing the budget in September.

In other business, the board:

heard the monthly crime report from sheriff Gary Reiber, who noted that calls for service dropped from May to June.

renewed the annual contract with Seth Tausan, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service specialist, for wildlife control services. The contract price of $9,132 is unchanged from last year.

voted to change voluntary life insurance providers for county employees to Lincoln Financial through the Krull Agency of Hastings. For $170 more per month overall, the county can increase the employee life insurance benefit from $2,500 to $10,000.

tabled action on a Central Platte Natural Resources District hazard mitigation plan because the large document was not received in time. It will be considered at a future meeting.